

## New-York Tribune.

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## THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

**FOREIGN.**—President Diaz issued a manifesto at Mexico City declaring his intention to resign the Presidency as soon as peace was restored. Francisco I. Madero, Jr., issued a manifesto ordering all Mexican revolutionaries to withdraw from the frontier; the proposed attack on Juarez will be abandoned. A dispatch from Paris stated that an anarchistic plot had been discovered against the President of the Republic and the Ministry of the Interior. The newly elected Constituent Assembly of Nicaragua has authorized President Estrada to contract an American loan.

**DOMESTIC.**—Superintendent Hottel issued a summary of the statement of fire, fire marine and marine insurance companies doing business in New York State; he said that the year 1910 had been one of little profit. The State Controller, John A. Sweeney, issued a statement of Albany concerning the examination of accounts of the various prisons of the State; he declared that the State had suffered a severe financial loss.

In a three-cornered race for Governor, the candidates are: William J. Burns, who is a Republican and an automobile; the latter finished third at the Washington aviation meet. Fire originating in the immersion tank of the Church of Christ, at Eagle Mills, N. Y., caused a loss of \$60,000. In a fight between United States officials and postoffice robbers at Baton Rouge, the marshal and two men were killed. The Colorado Legislature was formally dissolved without electing a successor to the late Charles J. Hughes, Jr., United States Senator. A monument to the memory of John Lewis, a Revolutionary War hero, was dedicated on Mount St. Helena, California.

**CITY.**—William J. Burns, the detective, said on a flying visit here that his work done on the dynamite jobs has cost \$20,000 already. The City of New York loved the day at Coney Island, but missed a lion hunt and began war on the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company for its management of transportation.

Two men were killed and four others were hospitalized by the fumes of sulphur gas in the plant of the General Chemical Company at Laurel Hill. Four firemen were overcome by the fumes of the gas in the plant of the General Chemical Company at Laurel Hill. A boy was mortally wounded by a stray bullet while playing in front of his home. Señor Vasquez, of Venezuela, formerly a member of Castro's Cabinet, came to New York to prepare an insurance against President Gomez.

The committee of the Civil Service Reform Association criticized the new Civil Service bill as destructive to the merit system. A British freighter arrived with a tale of a hard luck trip, which included grounding on islands two hundred and fifty miles apart. The day of the Grand M. Hammond was a dueling contest with bullets over forty competitors at Travers Island, "killing" Dr. Echeverria.

**THE WEATHER.**—Indications for today: Fair. Temperature yesterday: Highest, 76 degrees; lowest, 52.

**THE INCOME TAX AMENDMENT.**—Next Wednesday the Judiciary Committee of the Assembly will give a hearing on the resolution ratifying the income tax amendment to the federal Constitution, which recently passed the State Senate. There are a number of grounds on which opposition to the ratification of this amendment is plainly justified, and it may be well to restate them briefly.

In the first place, the pending resolution is badly drawn. On its face it says what some of its advocates admit that it means, and others of its advocates deny that it means. The phrase "deserving taxable income as 'income from whatever source derived'" is the cause of this lack of agreement. If the resolution means what a common sense interpretation would hold it to mean, it includes in income subject to a federal tax the salary of every State officer and the interest paid to every holder of State, county and municipal securities. Its language would authorize Congress to tax the instrumentalities of the State governments and to weaken the credit of the States by depreciating the value of their bonds. It goes without saying that to tax income derived as interest on a State, county or municipal bond is to make that bond less valuable than it now is, when the interest on it is specifically exempt from federal taxation. Even those who heartily approve an income tax in principle may well insist that the pending resolution be modified before ratification so as to preclude federal taxation of State instrumentalities.

The ratification of the amendment would deprive the States of a valuable source of revenue. State expenditure is rapidly increasing and there will be need of much larger revenues in the near future. The Federal Government has many means of raising money through indirect taxation. It can levy tariff duties, collect internal taxes of all sorts and, according to the recent decision of the Supreme Court of the United States, can impose excise taxes whose productivity is practically unlimited. The States have fewer resources and it will cripple them seriously if the Federal Government attempts to monopolize so potential a direct tax as that on income.

From the point of view of the Federal Government the income tax is not really needed to supplement the excise taxes which Congress now has unquestioned authority to impose. In 1910 the Treasury collected about \$27,000,000 from corporations obliged under the Payne law to pay 1 per cent of the amount of their net annual income. By making the rate of this tax 2 per cent or 3 per cent the Government could raise with little practical difficulty nearly as much as would be raised with much friction, cost and effort through the imposition of an inequitable income tax on individuals.

The ratification of the pending amendment would strike especially at two

classes of taxpayers already heavily burdened. It would enable the Government to collect revenue on income derived from real estate, now exempt under the Pollock decision. The farmer who uses his land productively and the owner of improved or unimproved property would both be called upon to surrender a part of the income derived from it, although already paying direct taxes upon it as realty. That would be duplicate taxation of an oppressive sort. It has been urged that the Legislature should ratify the amendment as a fulfillment of party pledges; but no Republican national platform and no Republican platform in this State has ever pledged the party to support an income tax amendment to the Constitution. It is true that the Democratic national platform and the State platform adopted last fall at Rochester favored the imposition of a Federal income tax, but they did not commit the Democratic party here to the defective amendment now pending, which antagonizes the Democratic theory of State rights, would permit the taxation of all the instrumentalities of State governments and would depress State and municipal credit.

## CIVIL SERVICE ANARCHY.

In its annual report the executive committee of the Civil Service Reform Association discusses a vicious feature of the so-called Gaylor charter. If that charter is adopted as it stands the merit system in this city will be at the mercy of Tammany Hall whenever the city has a Tammany Mayor, for the Municipal Civil Service Commission is made independent of all regulation by the State Civil Service Commission.

Indeed, so far have the framers of the charter gone to break down the safeguards of the merit system that the authority of the State Civil Service law within this city is destroyed. The local commission would be bound only by the vague and general provisions of the State constitution. In other respects it would be free to do as it might choose, placing of necessity in the competitive class and then again restoring them to the exempt class in response to the political pressure that would be exerted by successive administrations. The result would be anarchy. The merit system, being subject to the whim of mayors and commissioners, would be brought into total discredit.

The present system of supervision over local commissions by the State commission is uniform. It extends equally to Republican and to Democratic localities, and that, if nothing else, insures its impartial working. The Gaylor charter proposes an exception to that system.

The State, if it is passed, will regulate the enforcement of the Civil Service law in the other cities, but there will be neither law nor regulation in the city of New York. Wherever this freedom from regulation exists in the cities of other States Civil Service reform tends to be a farce. What, for example, might be expected in New York with a Van Wyck as Mayor and a local Civil Service Commission?

NO GREATER BOSTON.

The Legislature of Massachusetts seems to be entirely satisfied with the judgment expressed by a noted New Englander that Boston was not so much a city as a State of mind. It voted the other day to continue the present status under which the New England metropolis is a congeries of municipalities rather than a single well defined city. More Bostonians live outside Boston than inside it. The Boston stamp is impressed as indelibly on residents of Cambridge, Milton, Somerville, Chelsea, the Newtons, Jamaica Plain, Brookline and the twenty to thirty other suburbs as it is on those who live within the legal limits of the central municipality. But though themselves indistinguishable from one another, the people of these several units seem to prefer to retain the artificial distinctions of outgrown boundary lines and separate local governments.

The lower branch of the Legislature put a rude quietus on a consolidation bill, and the creation of a greater Boston is still a dream of the future.

Were such a consolidation to occur Boston would take the place among American cities which it is entitled to hold, but which cannot be awarded to it by the compilers of the federal census. It now ranks fifth, below St. Louis and ahead of Cleveland and Baltimore, but it is not unlikely to drop to eighth place by 1920 if Cleveland continues to grow as it grew from 1900 to 1910 and Baltimore and Pittsburgh enlarge their population by territorial annexations.

The present area of Boston is fully built up and its rate of increase in population is diminishing; the percentage between 1890 and 1900 being 25.1 and that between 1900 and 1910 being only 19.6. Cleveland's rate of growth for the two decades was 46.5. The New England metropolis could easily enlarge its area so as to include 1,000,000 to 1,200,000 inhabitants. But local sentiment is apparently against consolidation. In spite of the greater economy in administration and the larger public benefits which would naturally follow union. The outlying towns cling to their individuality, although the conditions which make separate municipal existence desirable are rapidly passing away. Yet in course of time they will probably have to yield to the same impulse of unification to which the people of so many other centers of population have yielded, perhaps reluctantly, but with material and lasting advantage to themselves.

WALLOONS AND FLEMINGS.

Belgium's language question, geographically one of north and south, is rapidly assuming a threatening aspect. So grave, indeed, has the situation become that King Albert felt called upon recently to refer to its dangers in an official speech. The French-speaking Walloons of the north, embracing the majority of the liberal, progressive, industrial population, are determined to put an end to the bilingual legal and official arrangement which practically keeps them from all participation in the administration of public affairs; because, in the words of one of their spokesmen, no Walloon will ever condescend to learn Flemish.

The Flemings of the northern provinces of the kingdom, reactionaries in politics and chiefly agriculturists, declare, through their leaders, that they will not surrender a single advantage gained by them in the course of a struggle that began seventy years ago. They say that the time has come to cut loose entirely from French influences and for the foundation of a strictly national—which means, of course, a Flemish, and in the last analysis, predominantly, a Dutch—civilization. The Walloon reply to this is an outspoken denial of the ex-

istence of a Belgian nationality, of *une ame Belge*, and an increased insistence upon the necessity to the country of French culture, whose spread depends upon the spread of the French language. At this point the Flemings make a curious threat. In case of a victory of the French tongue, they declare, which would mean the gradual extinction of their own, they will forthwith turn to German instead, for—and this is but little known—under the Belgian so-called "three language law" of 1836 German is the third language of the kingdom. The Walloons, on their side, are beginning to talk seriously of secession from Belgium and accession to the French Republic if the *status quo* is maintained unchanged. Thus the question, only locally important in its origins, threatens possible international complications. It is this consideration that has caused the leaders to stop to take counsel for the moment.

According to the Belgian census of 1900 there were in the kingdom 2,574,805 people speaking French and 2,822,005 who spoke only Flemish. The number of those speaking both languages was 801,587. In addition, 68,447 spoke French and German, but only 7,238 Flemish and German. The number of German immigrants in the country was 53,758, that of the Frenchmen 56,576, and there were 63,923 Netherlands. Besides having a numerical majority, the Flemings are far more compactly organized than are their opponents in this struggle.

## SENATOR ALDRICH AND STATE BANKS.

Senator Aldrich alluded to one of the most difficult problems in the reorganization of the banking and currency system when in his speech the other day at the trust companies' dinner he spoke of the desirability of inducing the State banking institutions to enter the Reserve Association proposed by his plan. Mr. Forgan, the Chicago bank president, referred to the same problem in his recent address upon monetary reform. Neither of them suggested any sure way to bring about this co-operation. The importance of effecting it was shown by the recent panic in this city, felt most severely in the trust companies, which, owing to the inadequate requirements of the State law regarding their reserves and the laxity of State regulation at that time, were the weak spot in the banking situation. Unless co-operation is secured among all the banks of the country and mobility is given to the reserves of all and conditions making for sounder banking are generally established and enforced, a source of weakness will always exist that might be removed by complete unification.

It will doubtless be of great value to the country to have its currency system placed upon a proper basis, to have the national banks organized, their reserves to some extent mobilized—in a word, to have a system like that proposed by Mr. Aldrich established throughout the seven thousand banks organized under the national law. But they are only seven thousand banks, and there are eighteen thousand others organized under State laws, doing more than half the banking business of the country and growing at a much more rapid rate than the national banks. Unless they can be drawn into the proposed system it will lack much of its possible effectiveness.

Compulsion is out of the question. Conditions of entrance will have to be made as liberal as is consistent with the purpose of the association to develop sound banking. And the advantages of membership must be so plain that the State banks and trust companies will see that they cannot be neglected. In the last analysis, however, it will probably be found that co-operation on the part of State institutions will depend upon the growing sentiment of the country in favor of sound banking. State legislation is becoming stricter. Larger reserves are being insisted upon. Thus the opportunity to operate under laxer conditions than will be permitted to members of the Reserve Association will steadily lessen.

Moreover, if the organization of banking along the lines proposed by Mr. Aldrich finds great favor with the people there will be a pressure of popular sentiment upon State institutions to participate in it.

## SEEKING THE SOUTH POLE.

The sailing of the German Antarctic expedition marks another important step in the international campaign to reach the South Pole. Two expeditions are already within the Antarctic Circle and two more are contemplating the invasion. Of the former, Captain Amundsen, of Norway, is presumably actually struggling across the polar ice fields, while Captain Scott, of Great Britain, the successor of the gallant Shackleton, is preparing upon the Antarctic shore for a poleward dash. Of the other two, the Japanese expedition, as we recently suggested, got off too late in the season and had to turn back to try again in our fall and the Antarctic spring, while the other, hailing from Australia, is constructing an airship with which to navigate the Antarctic heavens. The fifth expedition, from Germany, will be far behind the two now in the field in point of time, but it will be led by a singularly efficient and successful explorer and it will follow in the track of Shackleton.

Dr. Nansen has just written to "The London Times" a welcome letter in explanation—we would not say in defence—of Captain Amundsen's course. There are those who thought that the Norwegian explorer acted strangely in setting out ostensibly for the North Pole by way of Cape Horn and Berling Strait and then making instead a dash for the South Pole, and deemed him guilty of sharp practice and of a breach of ethics. Dr. Nansen tells us that Captain Amundsen did mean to go to the North Pole; but when he was in the midst of his preparations news came of Cook's claim and of Peary's achievement. He realized that his hoped for adventure had been forestalled. He could get no further support in America nor any subvention from the Norwegian government for seeking a goal which had already been reached. So with such means as had already been placed at his disposal he decided to make an Antarctic venture. He did not until he had got as far as Madeira, last August, tell even his financial patrons his intention, fearing that they would not approve it.

We should say that Captain Amundsen might have some explanations to make to his backers to reconcile them to his going South on the money which they gave him for going North. But we have no doubt that they would approve his change of plans; indeed, that they have already done so. When they subscribed to the fund the North Pole was still unconquered. Surely they

would rather pay for an attempt at the unattained than for another at that which has been attained. At any rate, it is with them alone that the Norse adventurer has to settle. If they do not condemn him, nobody else should. Of course, there is no prohibition against anybody's going to the Antarctic regions at any time. No explorer and no nation has any monopoly of adventure there. And it will be observed that Captain Amundsen has scrupulously selected a route as remote as possible from that which he knew to have been chosen by Captain Scott. The rivalry between the two expeditions is therefore entirely fair and friendly, and only creditable results are to be expected.

## MONEY AND BUSINESS.

Fundamental conditions in the world of money and business are absolutely sound. The actual volume of mercantile operations, however, is light, as far as forward commitments are concerned, while the demand for money for speculative transactions is insignificant in comparison with the inquiry for accommodation at this time in recent years. Notwithstanding the absence of activity in the speculative markets, the capital is moving into investment issues quoted on the Stock Exchange and handled over the counter, and from current indications steady improvement in prices for mortgage securities may be looked for, especially in the case of the issues of our best known and best managed railroads. Money is easy and in heavy supply, as shown by the demand of financial institutions for short-term notes and high grade bonds, including New York City corporate stock and the bonds of other municipalities which return a better income yield than can be secured on collateral loans. Call money has not been quoted above 2½ per cent since the early part of the year, while for the longest periods time accommodation has not been above 3½ in many weeks, comparing with 4½ to 4¾ per cent at this period a year ago. The demand for commercial paper exceeds the supply, and discounts have declined to 3½ to 3¾ per cent for prime four to six months' single name bills and six to ninety days' indorsed bills receivable. In the corresponding week of 1910 the best four to six months' paper was quoted at 4½ to 5 per cent. Money continues to move to this centre from most interior points, although New York funds are going in fairly large amounts to San Francisco and Montreal.

In most lines of trade production is in excess of the demand from consumers, particularly in the iron and steel and drygoods industry. Inactivity on the part of buyers is due entirely to their unwillingness to make engagements for the future pending the elimination of the various uncertainties in the current situation, as, for instance, the forthcoming Supreme Court decisions in anti-trust suits, which the financial community believes will be handed down either on May 15 or May 29. Notwithstanding the light forward business, day-to-day trade is heavy, and, furthermore, financiers and business men exhibit the utmost confidence in the theory that the present abundance of money and the low stocks of merchandise are building a foundation for ultimate heavy expansion in our industries. There is any amount of faith in the future. In expectation of better times to come experienced Wall Street interests are buying stocks on all declines, but at the moment there is no public following in the market, except in the bond department, in which purchases are being made strictly on investment account, the operations including a fair percentage of foreign buying. Together with increasing exports of merchandise the latter transactions are strengthening our credit abroad. Home manufacturers are finding better markets in foreign countries for their products than at home, and of course the movement will be beneficial to business as a whole.

In the cotton goods market curtailment of production is still under way, while the movement in woolsens is slow as a consequence of tariff agitation. The general cotton goods market, however, shows a hardening tendency in prices, with an increase reported in actual new business, especially for nearby needs. Sellers are not inclined to force the trade, for the good reason that in spite of recent advances in quotations the cost of production in the larger number of lines is still in excess of the figures buyers are willing to pay. Speculation in cotton futures has been more active in recent days, without material change in quotations, although favorable weather and crop reports, larger receipts at tidewater and liquidation by bull interests have brought about a somewhat bearish attitude on the part of operators on the local Cotton Exchange. Reports from various sections of the cotton belt state that current conditions on the plantations are in favor of a big crop. Panicky conditions among the shorts in May wheat are reflected in higher figures for this option, but there is nothing apparent in the present wheat situation that forebodes a sustained advance, current supplies being heavy with new crop prospects excellent. Flour mills have advanced their quotations owing to bull manipulation in the speculative market.

Pig iron statistics for the month of April show that the iron trade in that time more than lost the improvement reported in March. "The Iron Age" reports, with 212 cars and anthracite furnaces in blast on May 1, production at the rate of 64,432 tons a day, compared with 70,752 tons on April 1 and 65,563 tons on March 1, the figures for May 1 showing a production at the rate of 23,500,000 tons a year, compared with a yearly rate a month ago of more than 25,700,000 tons. The United States Steel Corporation has 63 per cent of its furnace capacity active, against 72 per cent at the high point late in March. New business in finished steel lines is smaller in volume than that recently reported, but the larger manufacturers appear to be quite confident that the falling off in business is merely a passing affair. In the copper market moderate activity prevails, with a good export demand reported. The coal trade enjoyed an excellent business in April, but reasonable weather has now cut down new orders.

To-morrow it will be two weeks since Mayor Gaynor's "week" began in which all the rapid transit difficulties were to vanish. There is nothing to do but be "patient."

Great is the national game! The Japanese are rooting for it, and the Philippines have become enthusiastic "fans." Now let us try the civilizing influence of the sturdy old American college football game on the head hunters as the first step toward their reclamation.

Panama hats are to be worn by the city postmen this summer. That means

hats which have absolutely no relation whatever to Panama.

Mayor Gaynor denies paternity of the charter that bears his name. Perhaps it was prepared in Tammany Hall.

Bishop Greer's appeal for funds for the completion of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine should find ready response in the richest city of the New World. The appeal is addressed to the community's religious sentiment. It may fitly be supplemented with one to civic pride.

It would be sad if Murphy and Dix, after hanging together throughout the long and trying senatorship contest, should fall apart over a trivial superintendency of banks or prisons.

Governor Woodrow Wilson said at Kansas City the other night that "if we felt that we had genuine representative government in our State legislative bodies no one would propose the initiative or referendum in America." Then why not have genuine representative government? It is the people's own fault if they have it not.

## THE TALK OF THE DAY.

A number of Americans will be present at the Church of St. Chiara, in Naples, on May 3 to witness the liquefaction of the blood of St. Januarius. A report from this city states that among the worshippers will be Enrico Caruso, who will offer a silver bust of himself for the restoration of his voice. The next date fixed for the miraculous liquefaction is September 19.

"A burned child fears the fire." "I know, but when she grows up she'll probably marry two or three times."—Detroit Free Press.

"No flies, no mosquitoes, no dirt, no dangerous water—that is the achievement of Americans in a city that was known as the filthiest in the world." This is what Miss Zola Baber, teacher of geography in the University of Chicago High School, who recently returned from a winter vacation in the Canal Zone, said of Panama. She doesn't see why Chicago could not be as safe a place to live as Panama, but she says it is not "if one sets a glass of water on his window sill in that country." Miss Baber declares, "a man whose business is the spreading of oil will put a few drops of kerosene in it. Every lake and stream and swamp is sprayed that the mosquitoes may not breed."

Tommy (who has been reading about the Spanish Inquisition)—Pop, we don't have instruments of torture nowadays, do we? Tommy's Pop—No, but the cornet player moved away from next door, my son.—Philadelphia Record.

The "true story" of a dog contented in the current number of "Our Dumb Animals" tells about a shepherd dog, owned by Dan Pierce, who lived near Nesbitt, Mo., which answered to the name of Sheep. That Sheep could count was demonstrated by his owner one day, when he told a visitor to capture one of the sheep when Sheep was counting. The dog counted and the animal was hidden in the woods. When the sheep came home Sheep took his stand inside the gate, as usual, but no sooner had the last sheep passed into the enclosure than he gave unmistakable signs that something was wrong. He sprang into the lane, looked in every direction, ran back into the corral and looked the flock over more carefully, then he came back and again and again toward the woods he ran as fast as his anxious feet could carry him. Finding the trail of the sheep thief he tracked him to the lost animal.

"I don't believe she'll ever get married." "Why not?" "Her friends have started telling what a good wife she'll make for some man some day."—Detroit Free Press.

The Mayor of Saint-Denis, France, writes to the Tribune to say that the city of Saint-Denis, France, will celebrate on June 2, 1 and 3 the honor of being what historians of both continents have called "America's godmother." In fact, when spring has once more returned to this beautiful section of France its fairy-like loveliness a little more than four centuries will have passed since that now rare book, entitled "Cosmographie," published in 1493, was first printed in Saint-Denis, where for the time the name "America" was printed and given to the new continent. Archaeology, history and art will have their part in this festival, and with them also the industry of the Vosges, for the new Chamber of Commerce is to be inaugurated at the same time.

"There is nothing in my play to bring a blush to anybody's cheek," said the author. "Well," replied the producer, "bring the manuscript around when you get it finished."—Washington Star.

Herr Holbein, a Danish postmaster, who has distinguished himself in the fight against tuberculosis in the Scandinavian kingdoms, has a new plan which he proposes to introduce in Sweden. He suggests, says a correspondent of "The Chicago Daily News," that "every child shall be insured immediately after its birth against tuberculosis, and if it contracts the disease before it is eighteen years of age it shall be given free treatment in a sanatorium." He says that "if every father were compelled to pay a crown (67 cents) for the insurance of each of his children sufficient money would be provided to carry out the plan."

"My grocer's the maddest man you ever saw. The inspector of weights and measures came out to his factory, and he said, 'Ha! caught him giving fourteen ounces for a pound, eh?'" "Worse than that," found a mistake in his scales, he had been giving seventeen."—Browning's Magazine.

## THE TARIFF AND THE TOILER.

Correspondent Sees Rejoicing Abroad Over Possible Extension of Free List.

To the Editor of the Tribune:

Sir: Congress is threatening to throw three million men out of employment, cutting their purchasing power and emptying their dinner pails. How? By putting one hundred articles on the free list; by cutting the duties on woolen goods 50 to 60 per cent; by cutting duties on cotton manufactured articles, leather and shoes.

Congress is going to do this in the face of two million idle men and women in England and one million in Germany who want to get into factories. These countries are rejoicing. Their manufacturers say: "Lift the lid. Our workmen will work 50 to 60 per cent cheaper than our Americans. You take your duties off. We will land these one hundred articles over their heads and secure your markets."

I will admit that if you throw three million workmen out of employment, with no other trades into which to go, you will reduce, by their competition for work with these employed, the wages of at least three million other workers; that by so much reduction in wages you reduce the output of their factories, and you will fill ours again. It will encourage us to build larger and secure your markets."

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